

The Asia Foundation
Combating Trafficking of Women and Children
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PROGRESS REPORT
January - March 2004

Summary of Program Activities in Current Reporting Period:

District-based prevention

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District-based prevention

In March, Maiti Nepal conducted two rights-based training workshops for 40 participants belonging to five VDCs of Banke District. They held a cross-sectoral workshop for 20 participants, of whom ten belonged to government line agencies. They also conducted training sessions for students and teachers and quiz competitions on trafficking for the senior classes of two local secondary schools, reaching 60 students. In mid-April, they conducted an NGO-CBO anti-trafficking orientation for 21 participants from local organizations.

CeLRRd conducted a special three-day anti-trafficking session for ten boys and ten girls from 20 higher secondary schools of Chitwan District. Following the sessions, the students formed *Anti- trafficking Social Groups* in their respective schools with participation by grade 8, 9, and 10 students. These groups will now begin anti-trafficking awareness activities in their schools. Extra-curricular activities regarding trafficking issues will be conducted in coordination with the schoolteachers who were trained by CeLRRd last year. CeLRRd conducted anti-trafficking refresher training for transport workers in Chitwan and Dhanusha, and formed vigilance groups to monitor transport routes.

CeLRRd facilitated legal aid for trafficking survivors in Chitwan District. To date, ten girls have been intercepted due to joint efforts of government agencies and CeLRRd's legal aid section. Community volunteers have referred these cases for legal aid. In order to clarify the concept of victim legal aid and further develop the effectiveness of legal aid services in the community, CeLRRd provided conceptual clarity training to 20 community volunteers in Bharatpur, Chitwan.

CeLRRd's Makwanpur office conducted a two-day advocacy program for 60 vulnerable workers from local hotels and restaurants. It also conducted training in Makwanpur and Kabre Districts reaching 50 transport workers. It conducted a two-day anti-trafficking orientation program for 30 mid- and lower-level government officials to facilitate better service delivery from government agencies to survivors

and the community. During this reporting period, CeLRRd conducted ten three-day rights-based training workshops for over 300 adolescent girls and women.

In February, WOREC conducted training on safe migration for NGO Federation counselors in Banepa, Kabre. It also conducted two five-day workshops on "Safe Migration and Anti-trafficking" for youth groups in Dhading and Chitwan Districts, with a total of 45 participants. The youth groups of WOREC's lead district, Dhanusha, conducted street plays and competitions on the themes of trafficking and other problems faced by youth and women.

ABC Nepal conducted a five-day leadership training workshop for 20 potential women leaders in Kabre District. The agenda focused on women's issues, particularly trafficking and violence against women and the participants' expected role in combating these problems. ABC Nepal also conducted training for 40 teachers belonging to Kusuma and Sanai VDCs of Nawalparasi District. Subsequent to ABC Nepal's training, adolescent girls formed anti-trafficking groups in ten VDCs of Nawalparasi District. These groups have a total membership of 1,600 and are engaged in mass prevention programs through popular drama. Three separate groups belonging to Amraut, Guthiparsauni, and Swanthi VDCs performed three street dramas during this reporting period. Students also conducted debate competitions, interaction programs on the issue of trafficking and HIV/AIDS, and distributed IEC materials with prevention messages. A total of 230 students were involved in these activities.

NGO Federation conducted three two-day training sessions on safe migration for anti-trafficking networks in five districts. The networks and adolescent girls and women which had previously received orientation in Dhading, the NGO Federation's lead district, conducted prevention initiatives including ward-level awareness campaigns, meetings, and street drama. In January and March, NGO Federation also conducted two conceptual clarity workshops for 50 adolescent girls of Phulbari and Jasithok VDCs of Kabre. During this reporting period, the NGO Federation's safe migration counseling booths reached a total of 613 youth, of which 45 percent were women.

Task Force activities

In February, Maiti Nepal facilitated five one-day VDC task force orientation workshops in Karkado, Piparahwa, Bhawaniapur, Jaispur, and Hirminia VDC's of Nepalgunj, with a total of 57 participants. A District Task Force and VDC Task Force coordination meeting was held on March 15th at the DDC office. A total of 25 participants attended the meeting, of whom 18 were government officials. Eight VDC Task Force members played an active role in the meeting. Maiti Nepal conducted a cross-border meeting on March 19th, in which 25 Nepali and Indian participants discussed joint measures to combat trafficking.

The VDC Task Forces in Chitwan conducted 14 one-day anti-trafficking workshops in 14 VDCs. These workshops focused on generating local recognition and support for VDC Task Forces and establishing coordination and working mechanisms to combat trafficking. After the workshops, all VDC Task Forces planned further awareness activities for vulnerable communities. In Makwanpur, ten VDC Task Force orientations were completed by the end of this reporting period.

In February, the ten VDC Task Forces of Dhanusha participated in a two-day workshop to review progress and plan future strategies. WOREC also facilitated a coordination meeting of the District Task Force.

In this reporting period, ABC Nepal conducted a cross-sectoral linkage meeting in Nawalparasi District, which brought together 35 participants including ten VDC Task Force members, one Municipality Task Force member, District Task Force members, teachers, adolescent girls, students, members of local women groups, women police cell officials, and representatives of local NGOs. The meeting served to enhance coordination between these sectors. The task forces of Amraut, Sanai, and Swathi VDC developed standard forms and managed a system of collating data related to youth migration from their VDCs. All ten VDCs hold regular monthly meetings. These VDC Task Forces to date have conducted 18-ward level sessions on conceptual clarity related to trafficking.

NGO Federation facilitated seven VDC Task Force coordination meetings for ten VDC Task Forces reaching more than 100 participants. In Kabre on February 16th, NGO Federation facilitated a District, VDC, and Municipality Task Force coordination meeting. A total of 40 participants contributed to the discussion on joint strategies to combat trafficking.

Trafficking film

ASMITA completed a seven-minute film on trafficking to be shown in cinema halls across the country. It is presently coordinating with the Cinema Hall Owners Association to screen the film as a preview to the feature presentation, and also during intermission at cinema halls. Orientation for cinema hall owners will commence in April.

Rehabilitation and reintegration

Maiti Nepal began developing policies, outreach mechanisms, and logistics systems for trafficking survivors returning to their family/community of origin, those in independent living situations, and those wishing to marry or enter foster families. In addition to John Frederick, who is serving as consultant to the project, Maiti Nepal hired a local lead consultant in March and a program supervisor in April.

Monitoring

On February 16th, the TAF Representative and Program Officer met at the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare with Joint Secretary Shyam Sundar Sharma, Under Secretary Katuwal, and Section Officer Shyam Sundar Sharma to discuss TAF's USAID-supported program and opportunities for greater coordination with the Ministry. TAF and the Ministry agreed to continue the discussion following suggestions from the project's assessment team in April.

Assessment

In February, TAF and USAID agreed to conduct an assessment of the anti-trafficking project to gauge progress to date and provide recommendations for future strategies.

In March, TAF contracted a three-person team led by Dr. Arzu Rana-Deuba to conduct the assessment. It hosted a partners meeting on March 10th to provide an orientation on the team's scope of work and methodology. The assessment team met with USAID, TAF, the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare, all the partner organizations at their head offices in Kathmandu, and at project sites in four districts: Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Dhanusha and Dhading. The team also scheduled a visit to Banke for April. During the field visits, the team met with District and VDC Task Forces, WDOs, and community stakeholders, including former elected leaders, adolescent girls, transport workers, school teachers, students, and NGO-CBOs. The terms of reference for the assessment are attached to this report. The team is expected to submit its final report to TAF by early May.